

Serial No. 10/731,558
60446-251; 03ZFM014/018

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of controlling a centrifugal clutch assembly comprising the steps of:

- a) monitoring ~~a vehicle operating input~~inputs;
- b) monitoring ~~a vehicle operating output~~outputs;
- c) detecting a fault condition responsive to monitored vehicle operating outputs being outside of a desired range relative to ~~the monitored vehicle~~ operating inputs; and
- d) disengaging transmission of torque by opening the centrifugal clutch assembly responsive to ~~said~~ detected fault condition at a speed greater than a speed required to engage the centrifugal clutch assembly.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein ~~said~~the centrifugal clutch assembly comprises a plurality of weights movable radially outward responsive to rotation to begin actuation of the centrifugal clutch assembly, and said step d) further comprises overriding ~~said~~the plurality of weights to open ~~said~~the centrifugal clutch assembly.

17. (WITHDRAWN, CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 14, ~~wherein the driveline comprises~~comprising a second clutch assembly, and said step d) comprises opening ~~said~~the second clutch assembly.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein one of ~~said~~the vehicle operating inputs comprises a throttle position.

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19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein one of ~~said~~the vehicle operating inputs comprises engine speed.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein one of ~~said~~the vehicle operating inputs comprises brake pedal position.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein ~~said~~one of the vehicle operating outputs~~-output~~ comprises centrifugal clutch assembly position.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein the plurality of weights are movable radially responsive to rotation of the centrifugal clutch assembly to move a pressure plate axially toward an engaged position and said step d) further comprises moving the pressure plate toward ~~the~~an open position independent of a radial position of the plurality of weights.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein said step d) comprises engaging a sleeve to the pressure plate and moving the pressure plate from a clamped position to ~~an~~the open position.

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24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of controlling a centrifugal clutch assembly comprising the steps of:

- a) moving a pressure plate axially toward an engaged position responsive to radial movement of a plurality of weights caused by rotation of the centrifugal clutch assembly above a desired speed;
- b) engaging at least one friction plate with the pressure plate to transmit torque to an output shaft; and
- c) monitoring at least one vehicle output with respect to vehicle inputs; and
- e)d) overriding engagement of the pressure plate and friction plate at a speed greater than or equal to the desired speed by moving the pressure plate axially away from the engaged position responsive to the at least one vehicle output being outside a desired range with respect to the vehicle inputs.

25. (CANCELLED)

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in ~~claim 25~~claim 24, including the step of detecting a condition indicative of stalling of an engine that is driving the centrifugal clutch assembly and overriding engagement to prevent the engine from stalling.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in claim 24, including moving the pressure plate axially away from the engaged position with a sleeve movable axially along an axis of rotation.

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in claim 24, including moving the pressure plate axially toward an engaged position at a speed below the desired speed such that the pressure plate engages the at least one friction plate-disk to transmit torque at a speed below the desired speed that causes actuation by radial movement of the plurality of weights.